

MARVEL

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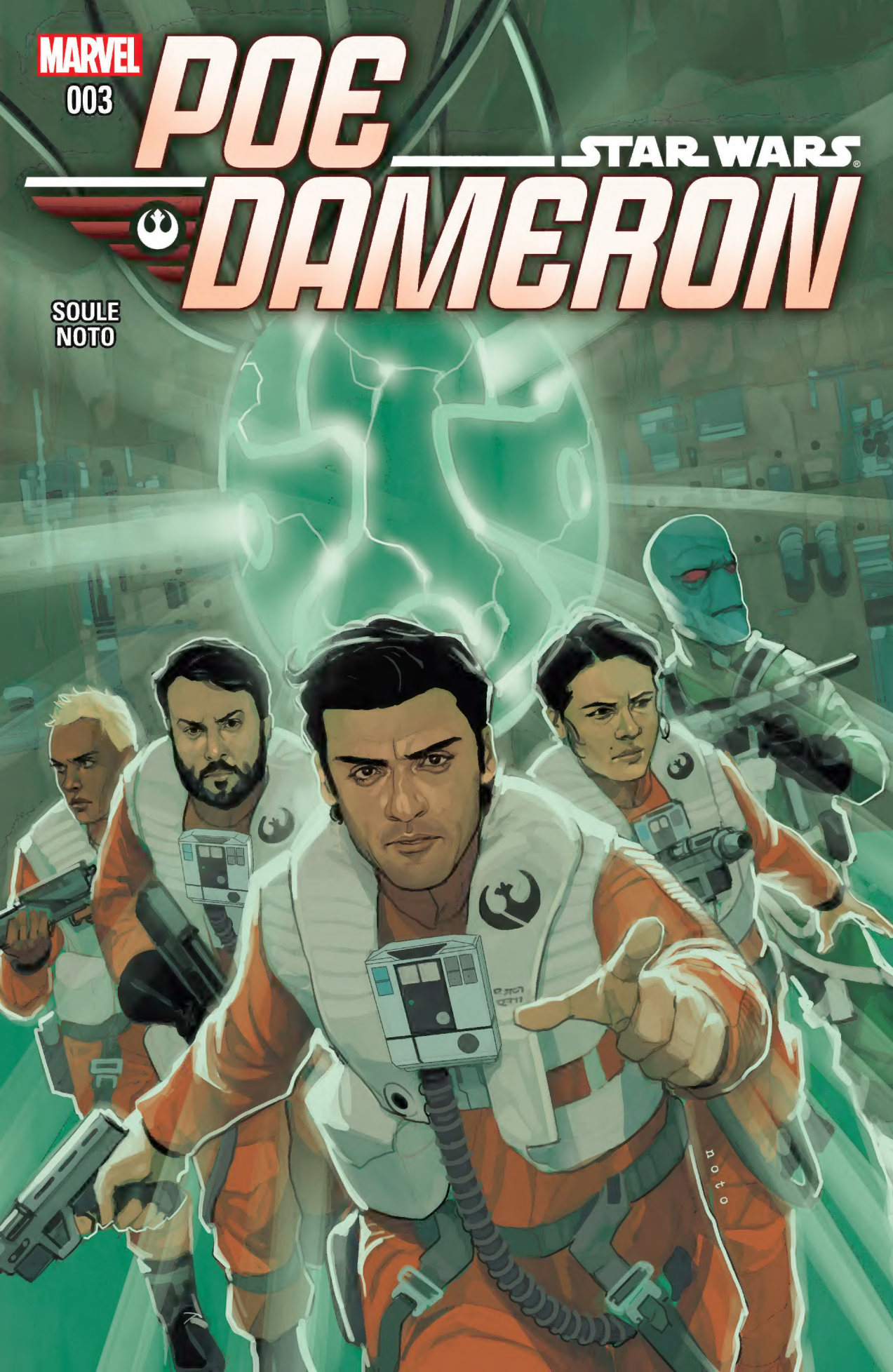
POE

STAR WARS®



DAMERON

SOULE
NOTO



Book I, Part III
BLACK SQUADRON

Thirty years have passed since the defeat of the Empire, but a new threat has arrived in the form of the oppressive First Order. Standing in opposition to their expansion is the Resistance.

Poe Dameron and his team of pilots – Black Squadron – have been tasked with finding Lor San Tekka, an explorer who may know Luke Skywalker's location. Traveling to the explorer's last known whereabouts, they find a planet whose inhabitants worship and care for an egg they believe nurtures their unborn savior.

But all is not well – a tracking device secretly placed on Poe's X-wing enables Agent Terex, a vicious First Order intelligence officer, to follow Black Squadron. Terex has trapped Poe and BB-8 in a cavern beneath the surface, while a fleet of TIEs engage the rest of Black Squadron in a deadly aerial battle....

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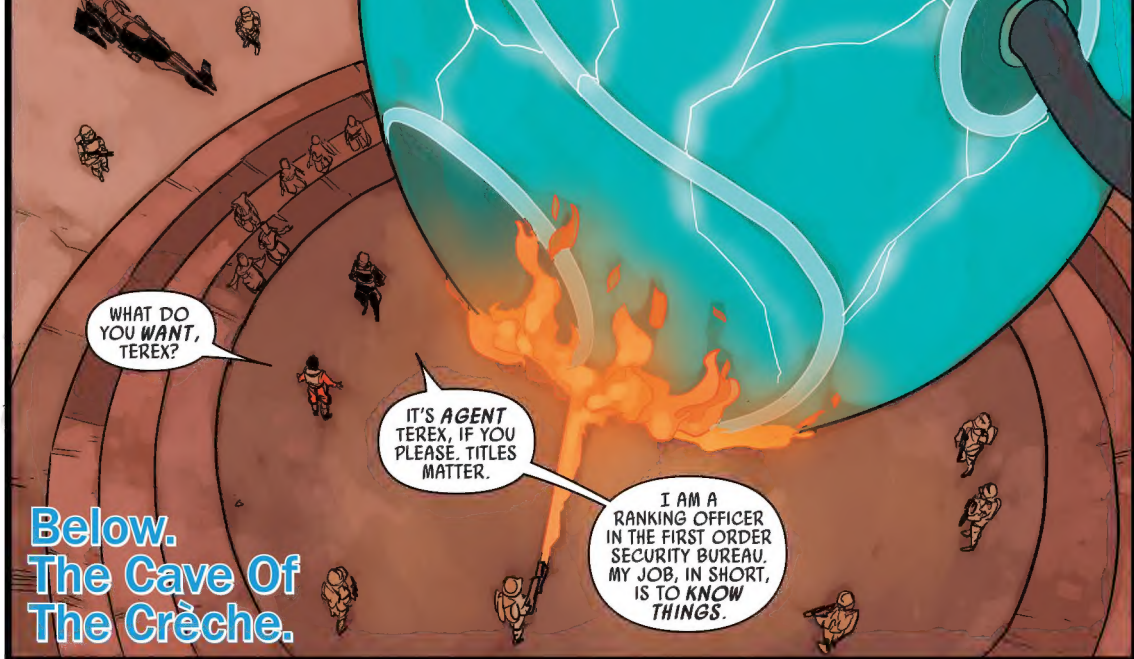
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WHAT DO YOU WANT, TEREX?

IT'S AGENT TEREX, IF YOU PLEASE. TITLES MATTER.

I AM A RANKING OFFICER IN THE FIRST ORDER SECURITY BUREAU. MY JOB, IN SHORT, IS TO KNOW THINGS.

Below.
The Cave Of
The Crèche.



YOU, OF COURSE, ARE POE DAMERON, PILOT FOR THE NEW REPUBLIC NAVY, AND MORE RECENTLY FOR LEIA ORGANA'S SILLY RESISTANCE.

BUT THAT'S YOUR NAME, NOT A TITLE.



YOUR TITLE SHOULD BE THIEF. BANDIT. CROOK. SCOUNDREL.

YOU STOLE FIRST ORDER PROPERTY--DATA WE BOUGHT AND PAID FOR-- AND I AM HERE TO GET IT BACK. THAT'S WHAT I WANT.



WE ALL WANT THINGS, PAL.

BUT UNTIL YOU TELL YOUR TIES TO CALL OFF THEIR ATTACK ON MY SQUADRON, AND EASE UP WITH THE FLAMETHROWERS ON THAT EGG, WE HAVE NOTHING TO TALK ABOUT.



YOU SHOULD BE MORE WORRIED ABOUT YOURSELF, POE.

AFTER ALL, YOUR COLLEAGUES ARE FLYING STARFIGHTERS...

"...I'M SURE
THEY'RE JUST
FINE."

EVASIVE
ACTION!

KEEP YOUR
S-FOILS CLOSED,
OR WE'LL NEVER
OUT-FLY THESE
THINGS.

WHERE
DID THEY ALL
COME FROM,
SNAP?

Above.
Black Squadron.

THE FIRST
ORDER MUST
HAVE A SHIP IN ORBIT.
GUESS THEY DIDN'T LIKE
US BLOWING UP
THEIR LANDING
PLATFORM.

IT DOESN'T
MATTER WHY
THEY'RE HERE--WE
HAVE TO GET OUT OF
THEIR LINE OF FIRE.
THEY'VE GOT US
FIVE TO ONE!

AGREED, JESS--
WE WON'T WIN THIS
FIGHT HEAD-TO-HEAD. WE
NEED TO BUY TIME FOR POE.
MAYBE HE CAN FIGURE OUT
SOMETHING DOWN IN
THE CAVERN.

OKAY. DOWN
INTO THE CANYONS.
SPLIT UP, TRY TO STAY
AHEAD OF THEM. IF YOU
CAN TAKE ONE OUT, DO
IT. MAYBE WE CAN
EVEN THE ODDS
A LITTLE.

DO YOU
THINK THAT WILL
ACTUALLY WORK,
SNAP?

I DON'T
KNOW, BUT
IT'S ALL I'VE
GOT.



NOW, YOU ARE CLEARLY A CRIMINAL--I COULD ARREST YOU AND BRING YOU UP ON CHARGES IN EITHER A NEW REPUBLIC COURT OR A FIRST ORDER TRIBUNAL.

BUT THAT WOULD TAKE SO LONG, AND I'M NOT THE MOST PATIENT MAN. IN SITUATIONS LIKE THIS, I PREFER MORE DIRECT SOLUTIONS.

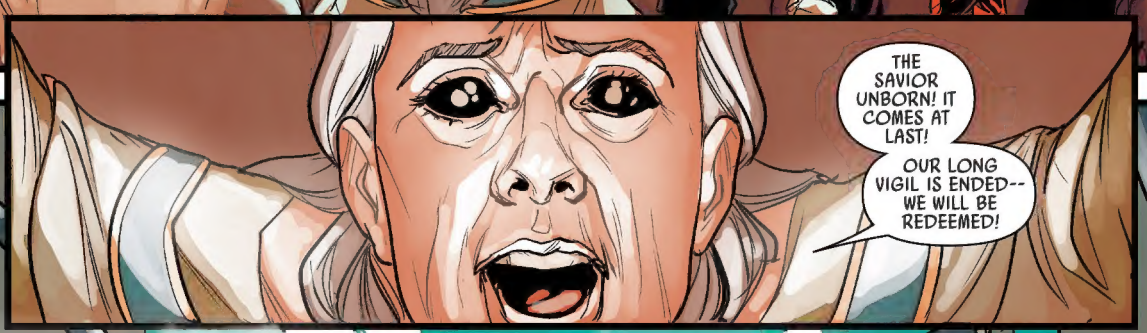
I TURN UP THE HEAT, IF YOU W--

KRRACK!

HMM.

HUH. HOW ABOUT THAT. YOU ACTUALLY CAN STOP TALKING.

UH...SIR... SHOULD WE--



THE SAVIOR UNBORN! IT COMES AT LAST!

OUR LONG VIGIL IS ENDED-- WE WILL BE REDEEMED!

THOOM!



WE WELCOME
YOU, OH SAVIOR
UNBORN!

WE ARE THE
CRÈCHE, YOUR
LOYAL SERVANTS
AND PROTECTORS
THESE MANY
GENERATIONS!

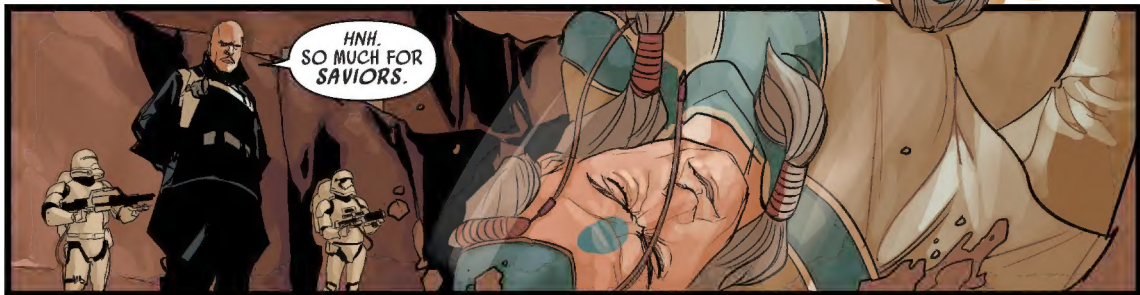


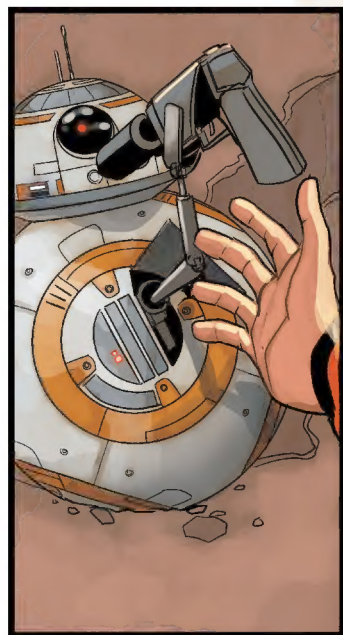
THIS COULD
BE OUR SHOT--
IF YOU SEE AN
OPENING, YOU
TAKE IT.

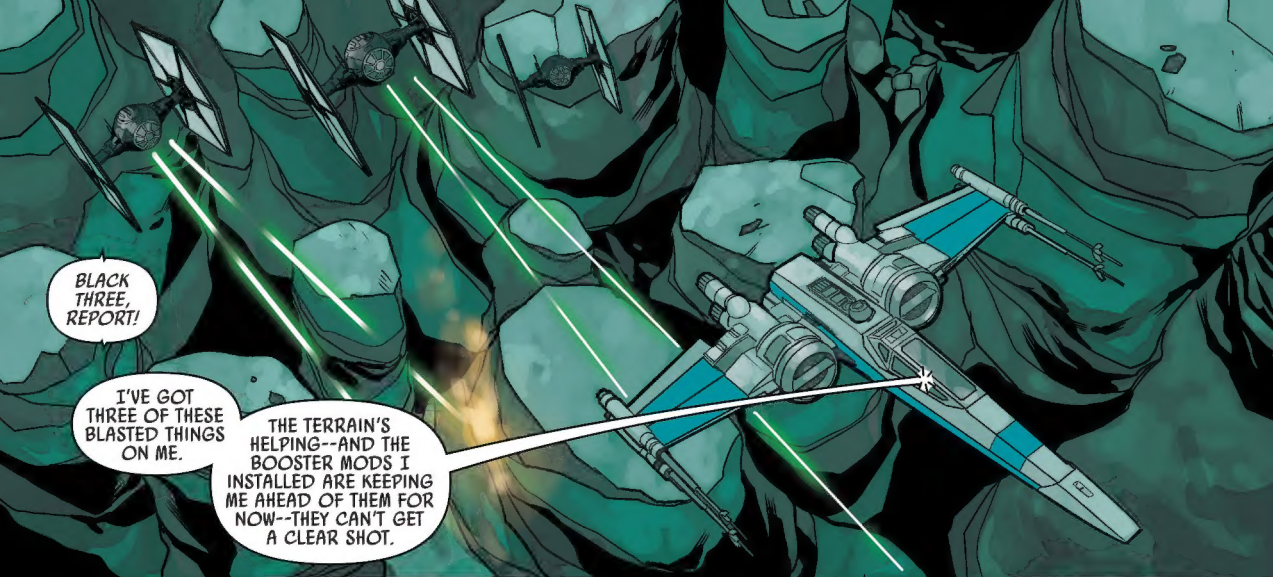


PLEASE--
LEAD US. SHOW
US HOW TO SAVE
THIS SINNER'S
WORLD.









BLACK THREE, REPORT!

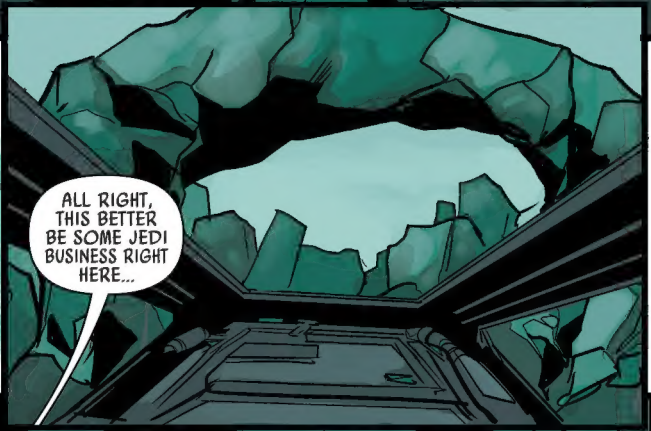
I'VE GOT THREE OF THESE BLASTED THINGS ON ME.

THE TERRAIN'S HELPING--AND THE BOOSTER MODS I INSTALLED ARE KEEPING ME AHEAD OF THEM FOR NOW--THEY CAN'T GET A CLEAR SHOT.



BUT THEY'RE GAINING GROUND ON ME WITH EVERY TURN. GONNA TRY SOMETHING, SEE IF I CAN'T PUSH 'EM BACK A LITTLE.

ROGER THAT. GOOD LUCK, JESS.



ALL RIGHT, THIS BETTER BE SOME JEDI BUSINESS RIGHT HERE...



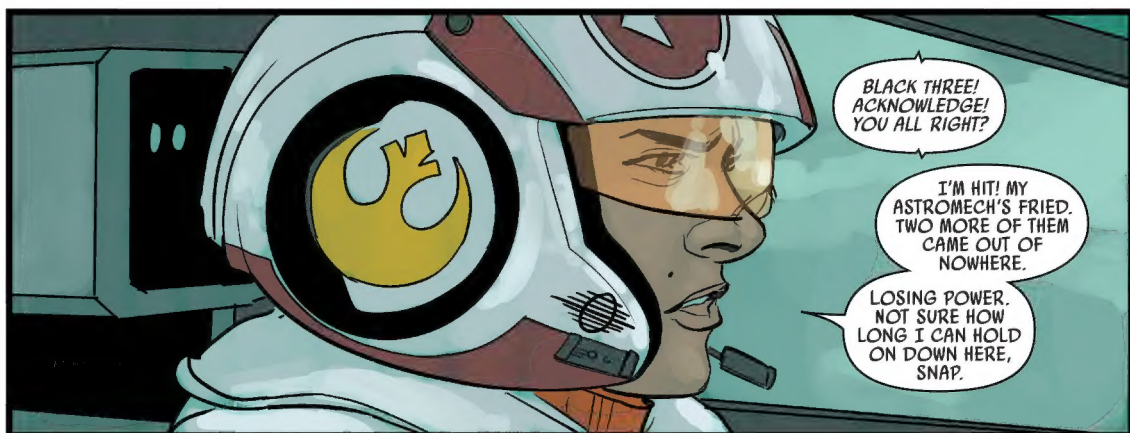
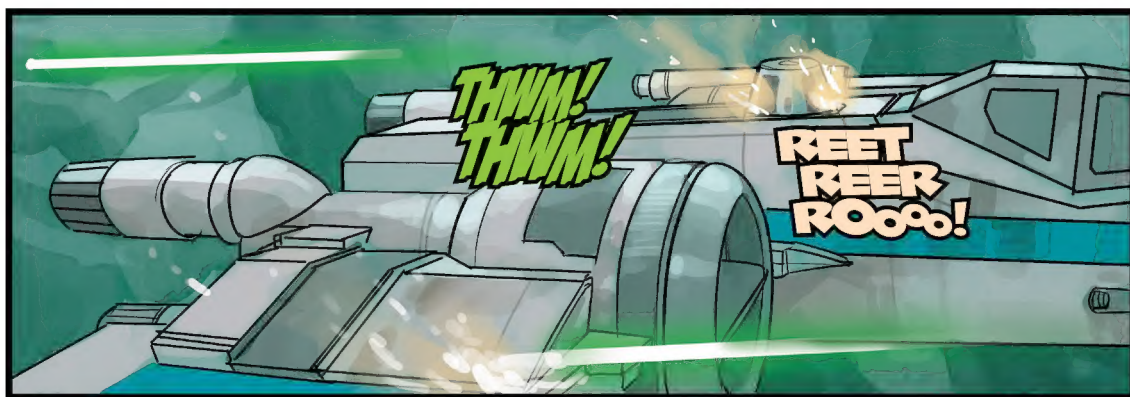
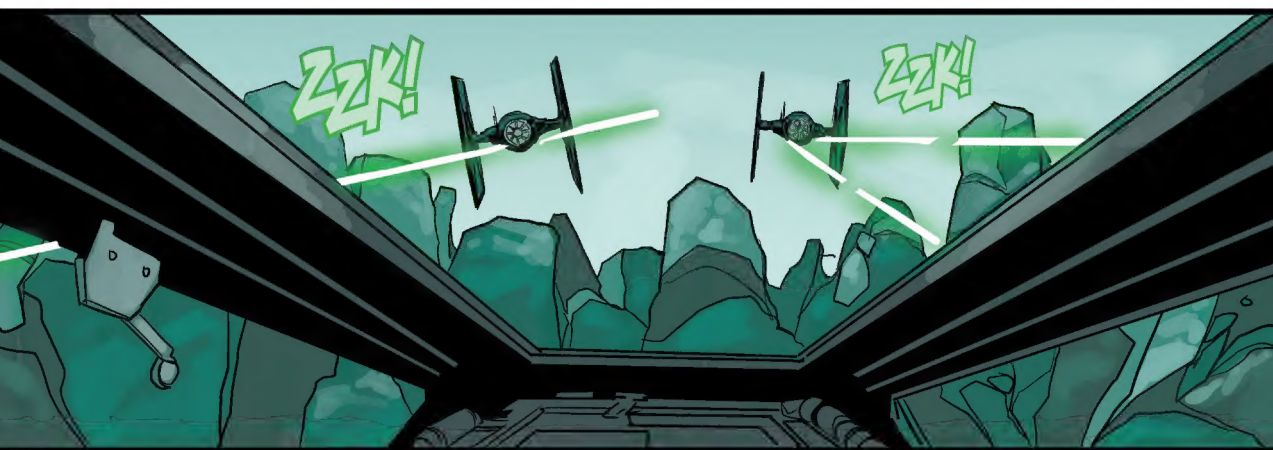
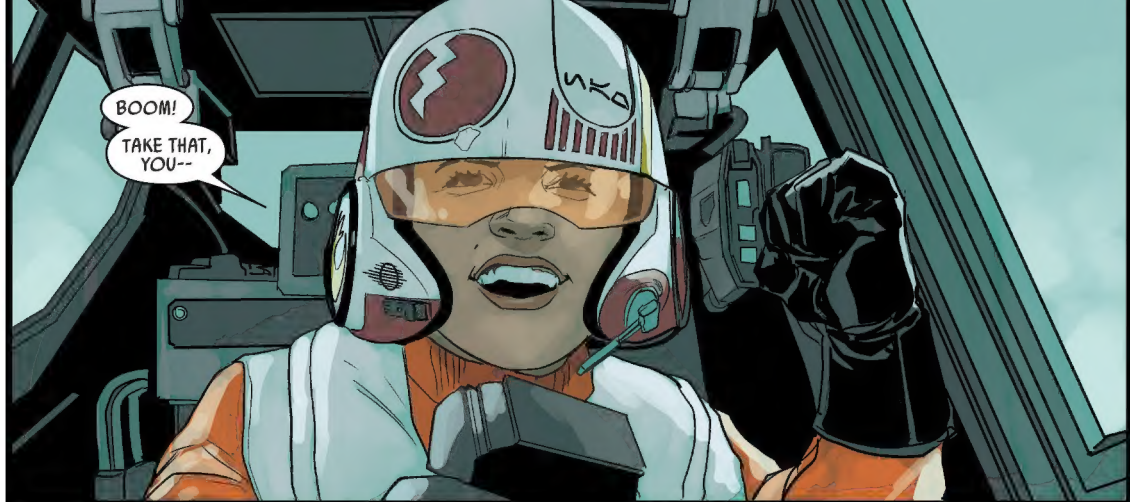
SZZK!



KTHOOM!



THWAM!





THIS WAS A
BAD IDEA. ALL
FIGHTERS, PULL UP.
WE NEED TO GET
BACK OUT INTO
THE OPEN AIR.



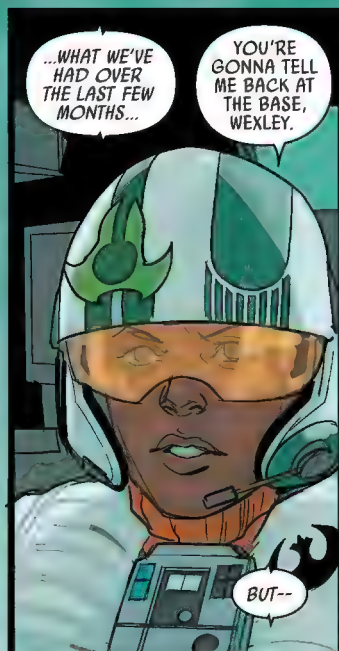
HOW WILL THAT
BE *BETTER*?
WE'RE STILL
OUTNUMBERED,
SNAP!

I'M NOT
SAYING WE CAN
WIN, L'ULO. BUT RIGHT
NOW, WE'RE EACH ON
OUR OWN. UP THERE...
AT LEAST WE'LL BE
FIGHTING
TOGETHER.

AH. I
SEE. ORDER
ACKNOWLEDGED,
BLACK TWO.
SEE YOU UP
THERE.



KARE. IN
CASE I DON'T GET
A CHANCE TO SAY
THIS BACK AT THE
BASE...



...WHAT WE'VE
HAD OVER
THE LAST FEW
MONTHS...

YOU'RE
GONNA TELL
ME BACK AT
THE BASE,
WEXLEY.

BUT--



YOU'RE
GONNA TELL
ME BACK AT
THE BASE.



OUR BLASTERS
CAN'T EVEN
SCRATCH THIS
THING!

STAY
FOCUSED!
CONCENTRATE
FIRE!

AAAAGH!

AAAAEGAHH!

THWAM!



IT'S OVER, TEREX.
TELL YOUR FIGHTERS
TO PULL BACK TO
ORBIT, AND CALL
OFF THE ATTACK
DOWN HERE.

I THINK
YOU'RE
MISREADING THE
SITUATION, POE.
MY TROOPERS
AREN'T
ATTACKING.



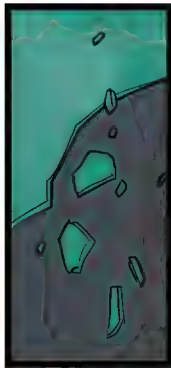
THEY'RE
DEFENDING.

I'M NOT
SURE THESE
CRËCHE IDIOTS HAD
ANY IDEA WHAT WAS
INSIDE THAT EGG
ALL THIS TIME.

MY TROOPS
ARE THE ONLY
THING KEEPING
ANY OF US
ALIVE.



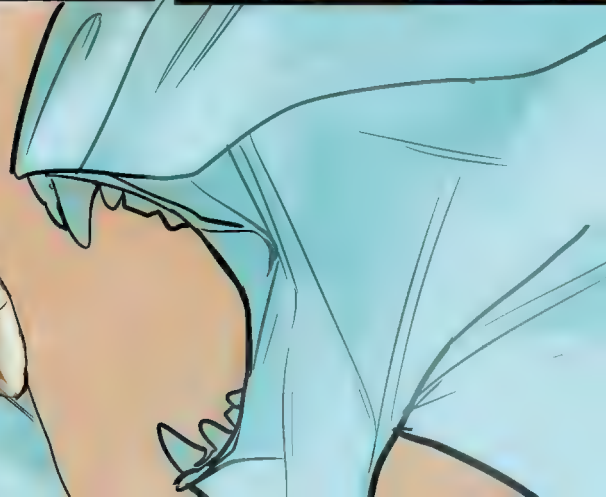
WHY ARE
YOU DOING THIS?
HOW HAVE WE ANGERED
YOU? PLEASE--TELL US
WHERE WE HAVE
GONE WR--



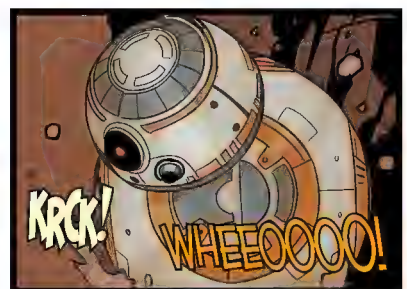
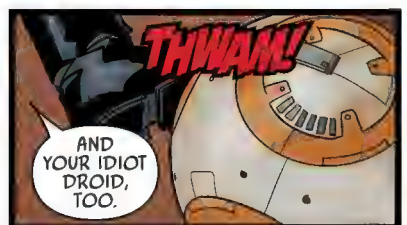
NNGH!



PLEASE...
NO!









YOU MAY WONDER WHY I WOULD KILL YOU, AS YOU STILL HAVEN'T GIVEN ME THE INFORMATION YOU STOLE FROM THE FIRST ORDER.

MOSTLY WONDERING HOW TO GET YOU TO SHUT UP.

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE FIGHTING SO HARD TO SAVE THESE FOOLS.

AND I THINK I FINALLY SEE. YOU'RE NOT FIGHTING TO PROTECT THEM.



THEY'RE... THEY'RE GROWING!

JUST MAKES THEM BIGGER TARGETS! KEEP SHOOTING!

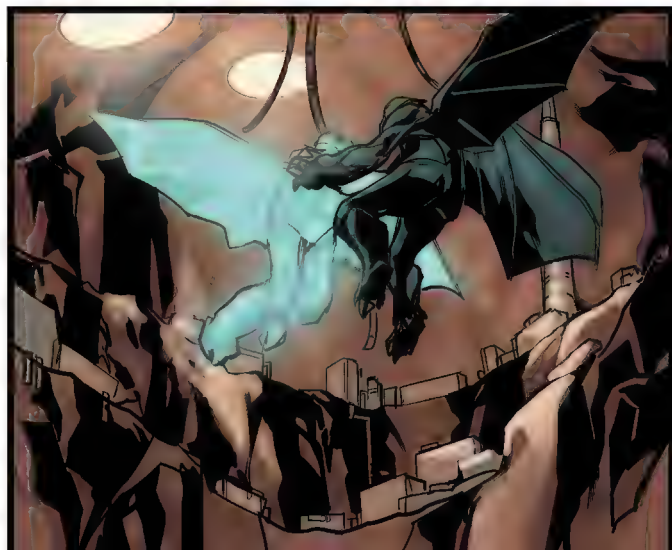


YOU'RE FIGHTING TO PROTECT SOMETHING THEY HAVE--SOMETHING THEY HAVEN'T GIVEN TO YOU YET.

THAT'S WHY YOU WERE STILL HERE WHEN I ARRIVED. WHATEVER YOU WANT, THEY STILL HAVE IT.

AND THAT MEANS I CAN GET IT FROM THEM.

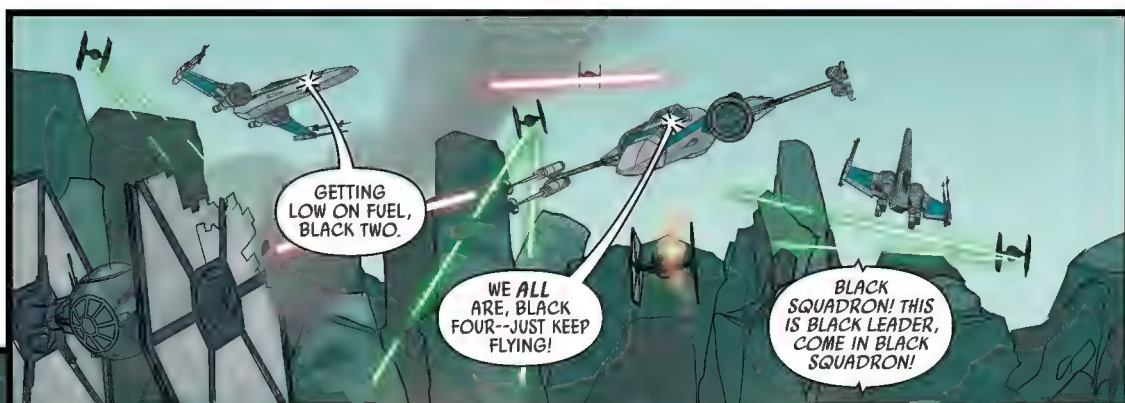
KRACK!



THD!

AND SO REALLY, MR. THIEF...

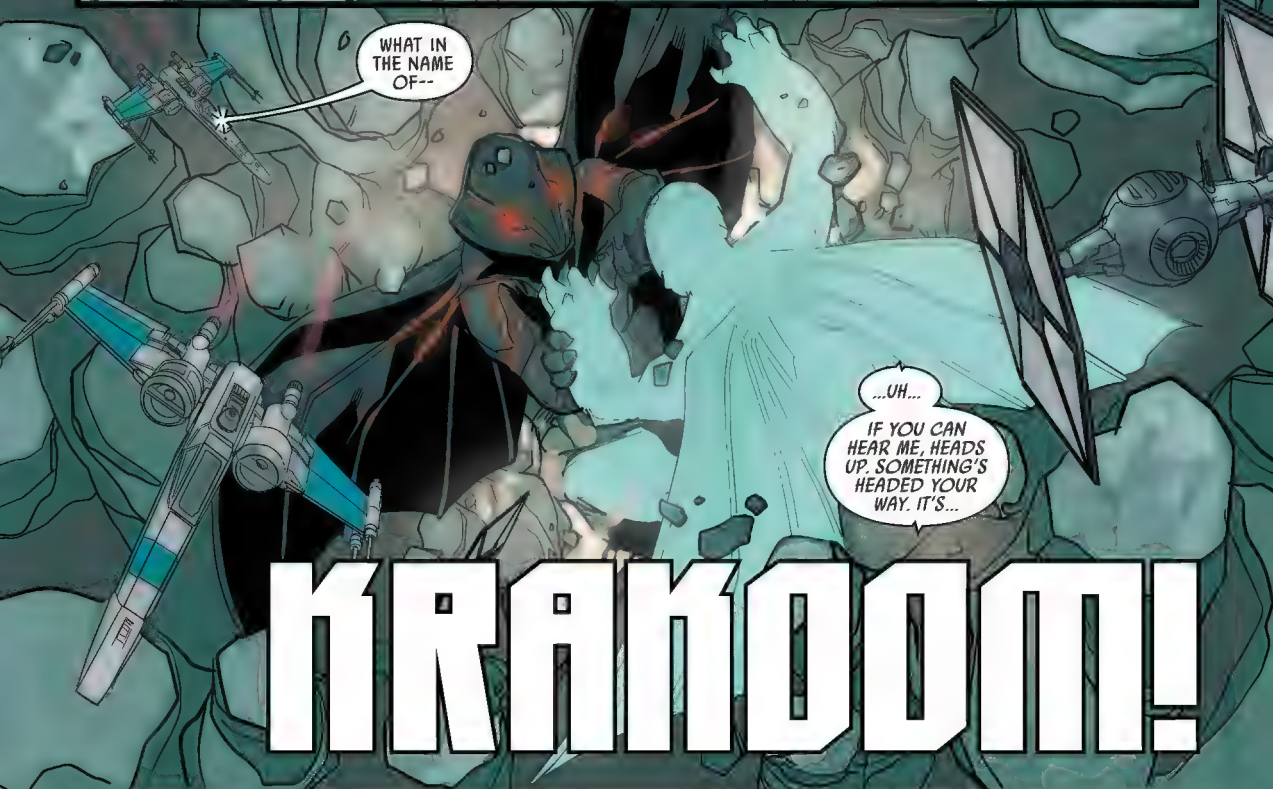




GETTING
LOW ON FUEL,
BLACK TWO.

WE *ALL*
ARE, BLACK
FOUR--JUST KEEP
FLYING!

BLACK
SQUADRON! THIS
IS BLACK LEADER,
COME IN BLACK
SQUADRON!

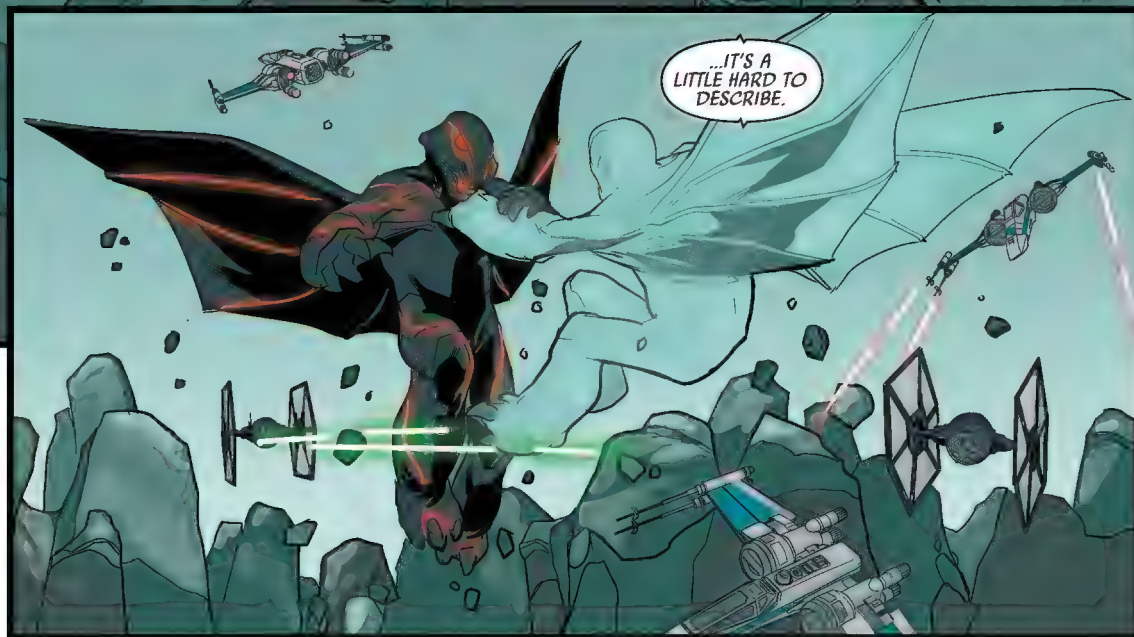


WHAT IN
THE NAME
OF--

...UH...

IF YOU CAN
HEAR ME, HEADS
UP. SOMETHING'S
HEADED YOUR
WAY. IT'S...

KRAAHOOM!



...IT'S A
LITTLE HARD TO
DESCRIBE.

BLACK
SQUADRON,
ON ME!

THOOM!

LOOKS
LIKE THOSE
THINGS MADE US
A WAY OUT.

WAY
IN.

WHATEVER.

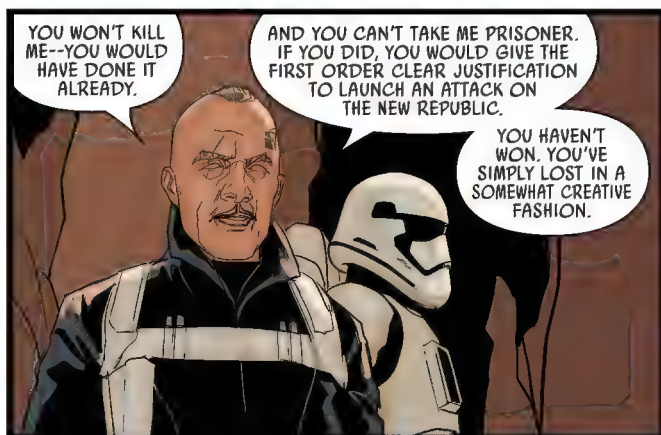
LET'S JUST
GET DOWN THERE
AND LAND.

KRRCK!

KIIIIAAAAH!



AND WHAT
WILL YOU
DO NOW,
DAMERON?



YOU WON'T KILL
ME--YOU WOULD
HAVE DONE IT
ALREADY.

AND YOU CAN'T TAKE ME PRISONER.
IF YOU DID, YOU WOULD GIVE THE
FIRST ORDER CLEAR JUSTIFICATION
TO LAUNCH AN ATTACK ON
THE NEW REPUBLIC.

YOU HAVEN'T
WON. YOU'VE
SIMPLY LOST IN A
SOMEWHAT CREATIVE
FASHION.



YOU
KNOW WHAT,
MAN?
YOU'RE
SORT OF
A DRAG.

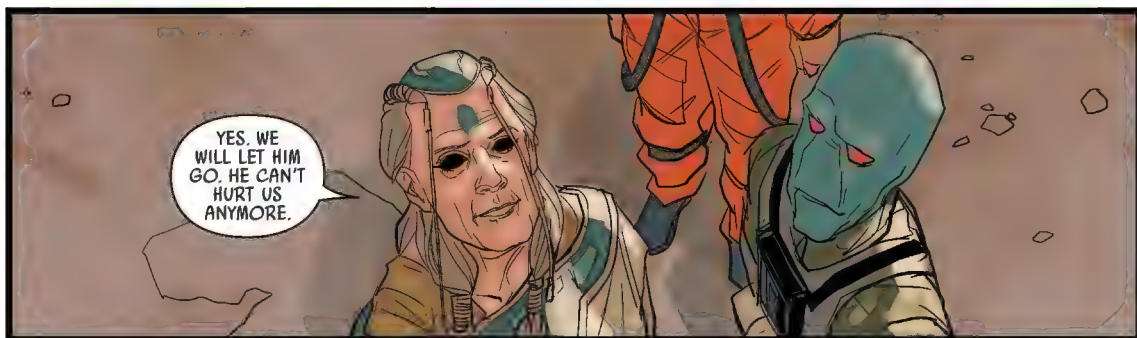


THIS PROBLEM IS EASILY SOLVED.
TEREX CAN'T HAVE MANY TIES
LEFT. ONCE WE REFUEL, WE CAN
FLY UP AND TAKE OUT HIS
CRUISER IN ORBIT ON
OUR WAY HOME.

LET THE
CRËCHE DECIDE
WHAT TO DO
WITH HIM.

IT'S NO
GOOD. THE FIRST
ORDER WOULD SEND
ANOTHER SHIP, MAYBE
EVEN A STAR DESTROYER.
THEY'D BURN THIS WHOLE
PLANET LOOKING
FOR HIM.

SO, WHAT...
WE JUST LET
HIM GO?

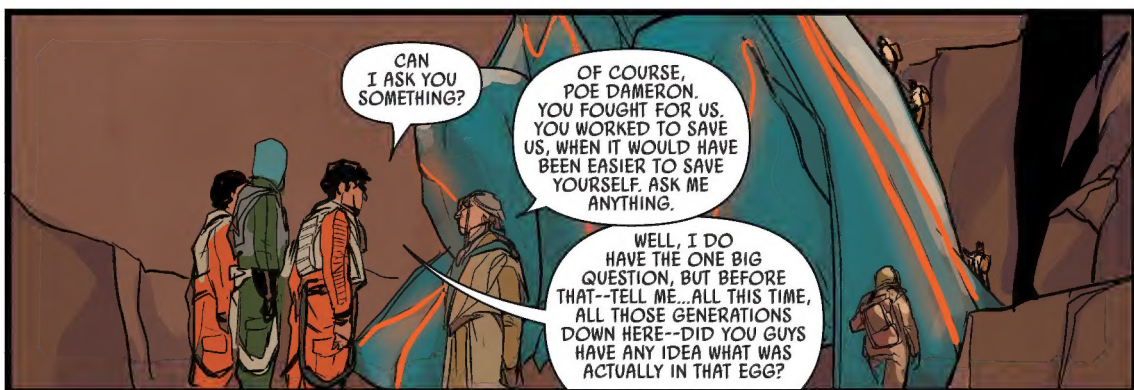


YES. WE
WILL LET HIM
GO. HE CAN'T
HURT US
ANYMORE.



THE
SAVIOR...
BORN.

IT WILL
CARRY US FAR FROM
HERE, TO WHEREVER
OUR NEW LIFE WILL
BEGIN.



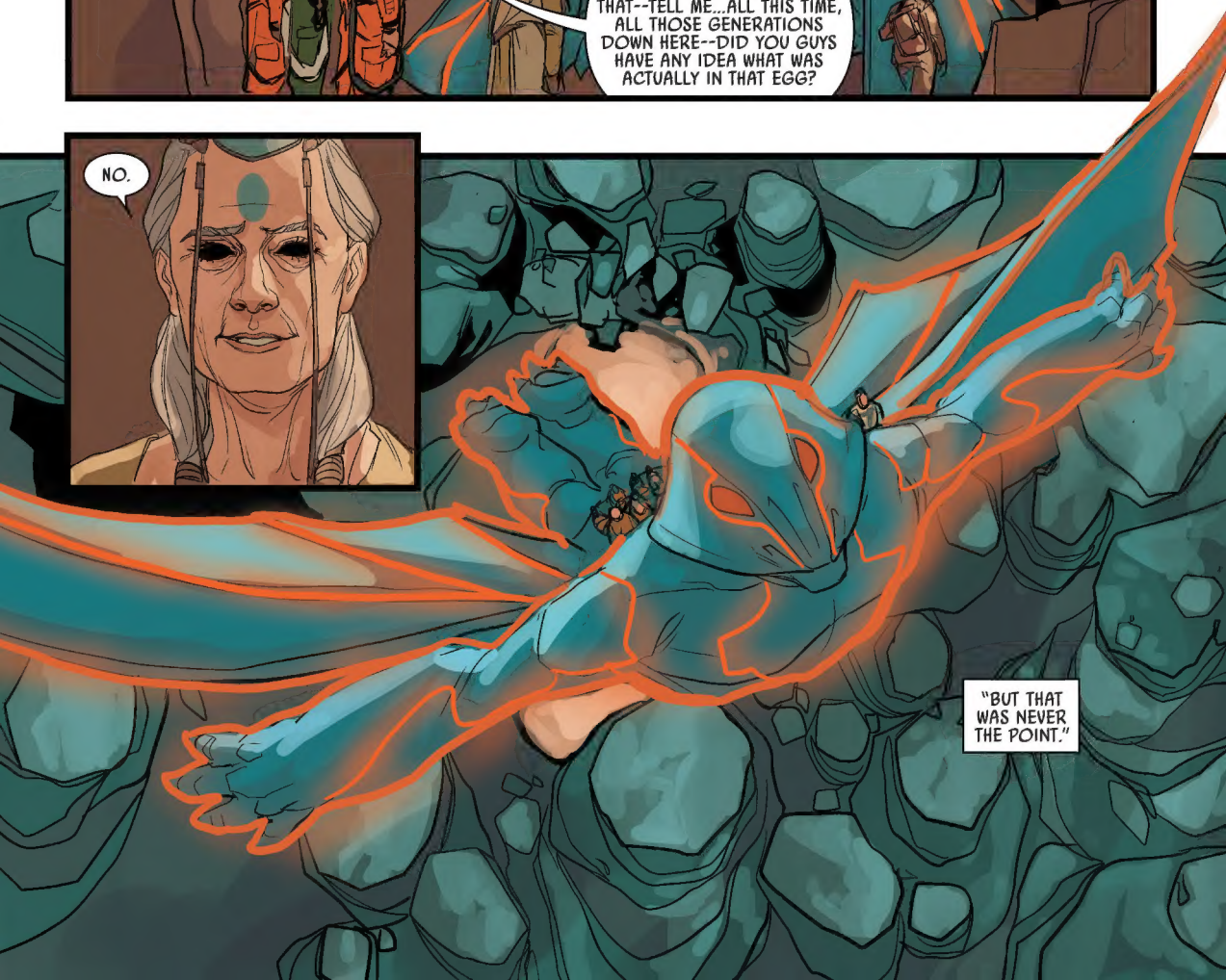
CAN
I ASK YOU
SOMETHING?

OF COURSE,
POE DAMERON.
YOU FOUGHT FOR US.
YOU WORKED TO SAVE
US, WHEN IT WOULD HAVE
BEEN EASIER TO SAVE
YOURSELF. ASK ME
ANYTHING.

WELL, I DO
HAVE THE ONE BIG
QUESTION, BUT BEFORE
THAT--TELL ME...ALL THIS TIME,
ALL THOSE GENERATIONS
DOWN HERE--DID YOU GUYS
HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT WAS
ACTUALLY IN THAT EGG?



NO.



"BUT THAT
WAS NEVER
THE POINT."



POE DAMERON

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away is a lot easier to get to than you think – and we want to hear from you! Write us at StarWars@Marvel.com if you want to make it onto a future letters page. Don't forget to mark the letter "OK TO PRINT."

Well, that was NOT what I thought the Savior would be. Whoa. I can't wait to see what Charles and Phil have planned for Poe and Black Squadron next! Speaking of – Charles answered some of your letters!

Dear Marvel,

Just read issue #1 of *Poe Dameron*. Incredible! Not to mention the fact that I was over the moon when I heard that my favorite new *Star Wars* character was getting an ongoing comic series. The comic, from the start, captures Poe's wit and charm. The artwork looks great. The cover art is my favorite cover in all of the *Star Wars* comics. You've outdone yourself this time, Marvel!

Happy and Content,
Justin Siller

If you like this cover, just you wait. The covers to #4 and #5 are even better. I also really love Declan Shalvey's variant cover to #2, and... actually, they're all pretty darn great. Any one of them is suitable for framing - I know I've got hundreds of copies framed in my house already, like fifty in every room. I now call my house Poeville, and make every guest call it Poeville, too. It's wonderful!

Hi there!

If I'm not mistaken, one of Poe's pilot mates (L'ulo) worked with his mum in the old days.. Did Poe know this? Did L'ulo shake his hand when he first met him and say, "You have your mother's eyes, Commander Dameron..." or something of the sort? I'd love to know more about the relationship Poe has with his squadron members!

Angie Suarez

Oh, sure. L'ulo was like Poe's uncle growing up - his green, red-eyed uncle. Everyone's got one of those, right? Man, I could tell you some Thanksgiving stories. As far as the other members of Black Squadron, we'll be getting into everyone's stories as the series continues - their relationships with Poe and with each other. There's a bunch of that in Issue #4, for example. Lots of fun surprises to come.

Hey Everyone,

I just have to say *Poe Dameron* might be my favorite new comic. I

have been a big fan of Charles Soule and Phil Noto for a while. Charles has brought his stellar writing abilities to the *Star Wars* universe in a comic that is sure to be a fan-favorite: Phil's artwork is just gorgeous as always. It is great how accessible the comic is, too. Even my 5-year-old daughter enjoyed reading it (Well, she read all of BB-8's Bleep Boops). I do think fans have a lot of questions about Poe's personal life/relationships, though. Will we be getting any kind of background or info on that in future issues?

Jo

So glad you enjoyed the issue, and even more glad that your daughter did! Fun fact - I write real dialogue for BB-8 in every panel, which gets translated into beeps and bleeps in the lettering pass. It's almost a shame, too - I give him all the best lines. As far as Poe's personal life, stay tuned. He's tight with everyone in Black Squadron, and we'll see a lot of those friendships deepen and change as the series continues. That said, it's definitely an action book - not a lot of downtime in the Resistance these days!

To Charles Soule and the *Poe Dameron* team,

My brother and I are absolutely loving this series so far. It is so fun and inspiring - everything *Star Wars* should be. My question is if this book will only stay in the time period before *The Force Awakens*? Or if it will fill in some gaps during the movie and possibly continue on with the events after the film? Thanks to everyone involved!

Tyler Bruso

Right now we're focused on the pre-*TFA* time period, and we have some great stories to tell about the events leading up to *The Force Awakens*. As far as other settings or time periods... only the Force knows. And maybe Maz Kanata. She seems to know an awful lot of stuff.

Dear *Poe Dameron* Team,

I want to start off by saying this comic is one of the best I've ever read and gave me an experience I haven't had since seeing *The Force Awakens* on opening night. The exceptional writing and art were not only able to perfectly capture the essence of Poe

and BB-8, but the entire *Star Wars* universe as well. This is my first experience reading an ongoing comic series and I am absolutely loving it thus far. I can't wait for the next issue!

Colton Bruso

That is incredibly kind of you to say! We were trying to do exactly that with this series - recapture the feeling of the films, as much as we could. Not such an easy task, but thankfully Phil Noto can draw anything, and I've got BB-8 to put into scenes (he's the secret ingredient to improve any and every story beat).

Marvel!

Having read all the previous *Star Wars* comics Marvel has created, I was already excited to read Poe's solo series; but now after just the first issue, I cannot wait to read the rest. I know you guys all work so hard to make sure everything fits just right and it shows because you seemed to encapsulate the same energy that Oscar brings to the character. I also love that we'll get a chance to see more of Snap and Jess the rest of Black Squadron. Another big shout-out to Chris and Jordie for the cutest little BB-8 story and I hope we see more with them at the helm!

Thanks again, and I can't wait for next month!

Jeff Reisdorf

Thanks, Jeff! Never fear - while Poe's name is on the cover, this is very much an ensemble piece, and every character will have their opportunity to shine. Especially BB-8. He's pretty shiny as is, actually. Giving more backstory to these folks is one of my favorite parts of the series - although if you're interested in Snap, make sure you check out the *Aftermath* series from fellow *Star Wars* author Chuck Wendig. LOTS of Snap-story in there.

Charles Soule

Sounds like Charles has lots of goodies planned for our favorite X-wing pilots! Be sure to check out next month's *Poe Dameron* #4 to see where Poe's adventures take him! And if you want to see your letter here, be sure to write us at StarWars@Marvel.com!

Heather Ahtos
(the second best pilot in the galaxy)

• Tour •
THE SEVEN SEAS

With

**BLACK MANTA
EMPIRE**



• Call 555-FISH